

MTS License Renewal Changes

by Leonard Kargacin

Current Medical Test Site (MTS) licenses expire on October 31, 2006. License renewal application packets will be mailed out in mid-July.

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has requested that the office of Laboratory Quality Assurance (LQA) change the MTS licensing cycle to correspond with the Washington State biennial budget. This will change the licensing cycle so that the MTS licenses will expire on June 30 of odd-numbered years rather than on October 31 of even-numbered years.

What does this mean for MTS license renewal this year?

In order to achieve the goal of matching the MTS licensing cycle to the state biennium, current MTS licenses will be renewed for an 8-month period so that they will expire on June 30, 2007. The fees will be prorated accordingly.

MTS License Renewal Process: The process of MTS license renewal will be different this year depending upon the type of license a facility holds. See the explanation below for your category of license.

Certificate of Waiver or Provider Performed Microscopic Procedures (PPMP): If you hold a Certificate of Waiver or PPMP MTS license, you will only receive a renewal fee letter for an 8-month license fee for the renewal of your current Medical Test Site (MTS) license for the period of November 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007. This is generated from the information that is currently in the MTS database. Fee letters will be mailed in mid-July. Return

your payment to the address at the bottom of the fee letter by August 30, 2006.

If your facility has had a name change, a change in the director, phone or fax numbers in the last two years, contact the LQA office at (206) 418-5600. If you no longer need a license, contact the LQA office by phone or write the reason you are not renewing on the bill, sign, and return to the LQA office at 1610 NE 150th Street, Shoreline, WA 98155.

Accredited and MTS-Inspected: If your facility is inspected by a private accrediting agency or inspected by the LQA staff, you will receive a full MTS license renewal packet. MTS renewal applications will be mailed in mid-July.

- Complete your renewal application and return it to the LQA office by August 16, 2006.

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Practice Guidelines

The following practice guidelines have been developed by the Clinical Laboratory Advisory Council. They can be accessed at the following website:
www.doh.wa.gov/lqa.htm

Anemia	Lipid Screening
ANA	PAP Smear
Bioterrorism Event Mgmt	Point-of-Care Testing
Bleeding Disorders	PSA
Chlamydia	Rash Illness
Diabetes	Red Cell Transfusion
Group A Strep Pharyngitis	Renal Disease
Group B Streptococcus	STD
Hepatitis	Thyroid
HIV	Tuberculosis
Infectious Diarrhea	Urinalysis
Intestinal Parasites	Wellness

MTS License Renewal Changes, continued from page 1

- Review and **UPDATE** information on the first page.
 - Check names, address(es), phone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses listed. Correct as necessary.
 - Add the fax number and e-mail address, if not listed.
- **SIGN** on the back of the first page.
- Indicate the tests performed as requested.
- List the annual volume of tests performed as requested.
- Complete the questionnaire on pages 9 and 10.
- **It is essential that the information on the pre-printed renewal application be checked closely for accuracy.** The information on the renewal form is entered into the MTS computer system and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) computer system. The information in the CMS database is accessed by government reimbursement agencies, such as Medicare and Medicaid, who use the information to reimburse medical claims to providers.
- Return completed application by **AUGUST 16, 2006.**
- LQA will review and process your application and send you a fee letter for the applicable 8-month license fee. **DO NOT SEND MONEY** with your renewal application.

Questions:

Call (206) 418-5600

Visit our website at www.doh.wa.gov/lqa.htm

Click on the "Updates" sidebar

Scroll to "MTS License Renewal Instructions" and click on the applicable license category

NOTE: If you have not received your license renewal packet by August 2, please contact the Office of Laboratory Quality Assurance at (206) 418-5600.

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NOTE: Letters to the editor may be published unless specified otherwise by the author.

Website addresses:

DOH home page: <http://www.doh.wa.gov>

LQA home page: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/lqa.htm>

PHL home page:
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/PHL/default.htm>

13th Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference

November 13, 2006

Doubletree Hotel
Seattle Airport

Mark you calendars now and plan to attend.
Registration information will be mailed in late August.

Basic Microscopy Training Course

On August 9, 2006, the WA State DOH Public Health Laboratories Training Program will offer a half-day course in Basic Microscopy. In this course, students will learn the parts of a microscope, understand how a light microscope works, learn the different types of microscopes and their uses, learn the different types of lights and lenses used for microscopes, learn how to focus and set-up Kohler illumination, and learn how to calibrate an ocular micrometer. How to prepare microscope slides for the best viewing, microscope ergonomics and a section on cleaning and care of a microscope will be presented in this course as well. If time allows, we will discuss tips on microscope purchasing.

Who should attend: The audience for this class is anyone who is a beginner at performing microscopic analysis or any lab professional with some microscope skills who would like to learn more about the use and care of microscopes.

Need additional information: If you would like more information about this class, call Shelley Lankford, Training Program Manager, at (206) 418-5401, or e-mail the Training Program at PHL.training@doh.wa.gov. You can also download training registration forms at the Public Health Laboratories Training Program website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/PHL/Training/train.htm>.

TUITION: \$95.00 if registered on or before August 2, 2006, or \$105.00 thereafter.

Basic Microscopy Training Course Registration Form - August 9, 2006

Name: _____
Employer: _____
Employer Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Work Phone: _____ FAX: _____
E-mail: _____ Message Phone: _____

HOW TO REGISTER: Complete the registration form, and mail to the Department of Health PHL Training Program **1610 NE 150th Street * PO Box 550501*Shoreline, WA 98155-9701**, or **FAX to: (206) 418-5445**. A confirmation packet will be sent to you by mail. The packet will contain your registration confirmation, payment instructions, and a map to the course location. Please do not send money with your registration form.

Registration Deadline: Wednesday August 2, 2006
\$95.00 by August 2, 2006 \$105.00 after August 2, 2006

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If you have not received your license renewal packet by August 2, please contact the Office of Laboratory Quality Assurance at (206) 418-5600.

MTS license renewal instructions can be found on the LQA website:

http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/fsl/lqa_updates.htm.

Calendar of Events

PHL Training Classes:

(<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphl/phl/training/train.htm>)

Basic Microscopy Course

August 9

Shoreline

Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium

October 18-21, 2006

Portland

13th Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference

November 13, 2006

Seattle

2006 WSSCLS/NWSSAMT Spring Meeting

April 2007

Tri-Cities

Contact information for the events listed above can be found on page 2. The Calendar of Events is a list of upcoming conferences, deadlines, and other dates of interest to the clinical laboratory community. If you have events that you would like to have included, please mail them to ELABORATIONS at the address on page 2. Information must be received at least one month before the scheduled event. The editor reserves the right to make final decisions on inclusion.